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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Re the Application of) Examiner: Anne R. Kubelik
Pal Maliga et al.) Art Unit: 1638
Serial No. 09/762,105)
Filed: April 23, 2001)
For: "Translation Control)
Elements for High-Level)
Protein Expression in the)
Plastids of Higher Plants)
and Methods of Use Thereof")

AMENDMENT AND REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111

In response to the Official Action dated December 17, 2002 please amend the above-identified application as follows:

In the specification:

At the indicated page and line numbers, please replace the existing paragraphs with those set forth below.

(Page 3, line 12) Key components of the prokaryotic translation machinery have been identified in plastids, including homologues of the bacterial IF1, IF2 and IF3 initiation factors and an S1-like ribosomal protein (Stern et al., 1997). Most plastid mRNAs (92%) contain a ribosome binding site or SD sequence: GGAGG, or its truncated tri- or tetranucleotide variant. This sequence is similar to the bacterial SD consensus 5'-UAAGGAGGUGA-3' (SEQ ID NO: 28; Voorma, 1996). High level expression of foreign genes of interest in the plastids of higher plants is extremely desirable. The present invention provides novel genetic translational control elements for use in plastid